

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims as set forth below.

Claims 1-20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) A surgical device comprising:

a tubular shaft having an internal lumen, ~~[[and]]~~ a slot, the slot comprising a cross-sectional portion of the tubular shaft, and a dissecting tip disposed at a distal end thereof the shaft, the dissecting tip having a cross-section that narrows from a first location to a second location distal to the first location;

a hook member in communication with the slot;

a clamp slidably disposed in the slot between open and closed positions, the clamp having a clamping surface disposed at a distal end to capture tissue in the slot between the hook member and the clamping surface; and

at least one electrode for applying RF energy to the tissue captured in the slot.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 21, wherein the at least one electrode is carried on one of the hook member and clamp.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 22, wherein the at least one electrode is carried on the hook member on at least a portion of an edge of the slot.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 22, further comprising a cutting means for cutting the captured tissue subsequent to the application of RF energy.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 24, wherein the cutting means comprises a cutting blade slidingly disposed in the internal lumen and having an extended position which extends into the slot.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 25, wherein the at least one electrode is carried on the cutting blade.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended) A surgical device comprising:
a tubular shaft having an internal lumen, [[and]] a slot, the slot comprising a cross-sectional portion of the tubular shaft, and a dissecting tip disposed at a distal end thereof the shaft, the dissecting tip having a cross-section that narrows from a first location to a second location distal to the first location;

a hook member in communication with the slot, the hook member having at least one electrode for applying RF energy to tissue captured in the slot;

a clamp slidingly disposed in the slot between open and closed positions, the clamp having a clamping surface disposed at a distal end to capture the tissue in the slot between the hook member and the clamping surface.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 27, wherein the at least one electrode is carried on one of the hook member and clamp.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 27, further comprising a cutting means for cutting the captured tissue subsequent to the application of RF energy.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 29, wherein the cutting means comprises a cutting blade slidably disposed in the internal lumen and having an extended position which extends into the slot.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented) The surgical device of claim 30, wherein the at least one electrode is carried on the cutting blade.

Claim 32 (New) The surgical device of claim 21, wherein the dissecting further comprises a surface that slopes from the first location to the second location.

Claim 33 (New) The surgical device of claim 27, wherein the dissecting further comprises a surface that slopes from the first location to the second location.